2

CLAIMS:

1	1.	A method for automatically switching remote shared devices in a dense server				
2	envi	environment comprising the steps of:				
3		receiving a request to access a shared device from a server blade; and				
4		issuing a query as to whether said shared device is being accessed;				
5		wherein if said shared device is not being accessed by said server blade then				
6	the r	nethod further comprises the steps of:				
7		receiving a response to said query indicating that said shared device is				
8	not a	available; and				
9		waiting to receive a response that said shared device is available.				
1	2.	The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:				
2		determining if said shared device is being accessed.				
1	3.	The method as recited in claim 2, wherein if said shared device is not being				
2	acce	ssed then the method further comprises the steps of:				
3		connecting said shared device with said server blade; and				
4		transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.				
1	4.	The method as recited in claim 2, wherein if said shared device is being				
2	acces	ssed then the method further comprises the step of:				
3		determining if said shared device is being accessed by said server blade.				
1	5.	The method as recited in claim 4, wherein if said shared device is being				
2	acces	ssed by said server blade then the method further comprises the steps of:				
3		connecting said shared device with said server blade; and				
4		transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.				
1	6.	The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:				
2		receiving said response that said shared device is available;				

- 3 connecting said shared device with said server blade; and
- 4 transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.
- 1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said shared device is a Universal
- 2 Serial Bus device.

RPS920010145US1 PATENT

I	8.	A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium for
2	autom	atically switching remote shared devices in a dense server environment
3	compi	rising the programming steps of:
4		receiving a request to access a shared device from a server blade; and
5		issuing a query as to whether said shared device is being accessed;
6		wherein if said shared device is not being accessed by said server blade then
7	the co	mputer program product further comprises the programming steps of:
8		receiving a response to said query indicating that said shared device is
9	not av	ailable; and
10		waiting to receive a response that said shared device is available.
1	9.	The computer program product as recited in claim 8 further comprises the
2	progra	amming step of:
3		determining if said shared device is being accessed.
1	10.	The method as recited in claim 9, wherein if said shared device is not being
2	access	ed then the computer program product further comprises the programming
3	steps o	of:
4		connecting said shared device with said server blade; and
5		transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.
1	11.	The computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein if said shared
2	device	is being accessed then the computer program product further comprises the
3	programming step of:	
4		determining if said shared device is being accessed by said server blade.

1	12.	The computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein if said shared
2	device	is being accessed by said server blade then the computer program product
3	further	comprises the programming steps of:
4		connecting said shared device with said server blade; and
5		transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device

- 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 8 further comprises the programming steps of:

 receiving said response that said shared device is available:
 - receiving said response that said shared device is available; connecting said shared device with said server blade; and transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.
- 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein said shared device is a Universal Serial Bus device.

A system, comprising:

15.

1

5

6

2	one or more shared devices; and
3	a plurality of server blades coupled to said one or more shared devices via a
4	service unit, wherein said service unit is configured to establish a connection between
5	one of said one or more shared devices and one of said plurality of server blades
6	requesting to access said one of said one or more shared devices;
7	wherein said requesting server blade comprises:
8	a processor; and
9	a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is
10 11 12	operable for storing a program, wherein the program is operable for performing the
11	following programming steps:
13	said requesting server blade; and
14	issuing a query to said service unit as to whether said requested
15	shared device is being accessed;
16	wherein if said requested shared device is not being accessed
17	by said requesting server blade then the program is further operable for performing
18	the following programming steps:
19	receiving a response to said query indicating that said
20	requested shared device is not available; and
21	waiting to receive a response that said requested shared
22	device is available.
1	16. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said service unit comprises:
2	a processor; and
3	
	a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is
4	operable for storing a computer program, wherein the computer program is operable

determining if said requested shared device is being accessed.

for performing the following programming step:

17. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein if said requested shared device is not being accessed then the computer program of said service unit is further operable for performing the following programming step:

connecting said requested shared device with said requesting server blade;

wherein if said requested shared device is not being accessed then the program of said requesting server blade is further operable for performing the following programming step:

transferring said request to access said requested shared device to said requested shared device.

18. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein if said requested shared device is being accessed then the computer program of said service unit is further operable for performing the following programming step:

determining if said requested shared device is being accessed by said requesting server blade.

19. The system as recited in claim 18, wherein if said requested shared device is being accessed by said requesting server blade then the computer program of said service unit is further operable for performing the following programming step:

connecting said requested shared device with said requesting server blade;

wherein if said requested shared device is being accessed by said requesting server blade then the program of said requesting server blade is further operable for performing the following programming step:

transferring said request to access said requested shared device to said requested shared device.

- 20. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the program of said requesting server blade is further operable for performing the following programming step:
 - receiving said response that said requested shared devices is available.

RPS920010145US1 PATENT

1	21.	The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the computer program of said	
2	servi	ce unit is further operable for performing the following programming step:	
3		connecting said requested shared device with said requesting server blade;	
4		wherein the program of said requesting server blade is further operable for	
5	performing the following programming step:		
6		transferring said request to access said requested shared device to said	
7	reque	requested shard device.	
1	22.	The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said requested shared device is a	
2 Univers		ersal Serial Bus device.	